(c) whether all the new lines are likely to be completed during 1996-97; and

(d) the total allocation made during the current year for the development of railways in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Two new rail lines, viz. Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad and Nandyal-Yerraguntla in Andhra Pradesh have been taken up for construction in 1996-97.

(b) Proposals for 11 new rail lines and gauge conversion of two metre gauge sections, have been submitted by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A total allocation of Rs. 257.14 crores has been made in Budget, 1996-97, for new lines, gauge conversions and doublings in Andhra Pradesh.

Expansion of Telephone Network at Calcutta

322. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to expand the network/area of Calcutta Telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). In the past there has been demand to expand the jurisdiction of Calcutta Telephones to include some adjacent areas like Bhangor, Champahati, Falta, Rajarhat etc. As per the existing policy of the Department of Telecom, the boundary of a local telephone system like Calcutta generally corresponds to that of its municipal limits or limits defined by the metropolitan development authorities. Based on this policy as well as technical considerations, it has not been possible to accede to the demand.

Daily running of Guwahati Rajdhani Express

323. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run Guwahati Rajdhani Express daily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any proposals to increase the coaches of this train and to hand over the train to North Eastern Railway; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Kanniyakumari and Calcutta

324. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the difficulties being faced by the Government to introduce a superfast train between Kanniyakumari and Calcutta; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the introduction of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to introduce a direct train between Kanniyakumari and Howrah due to shortage of coaches and locomotives and operational constraints including non-availability of spare terminal/maintenance facility at Kanniyakumari and Howrah and line capacity constraints on various sections enroute.

Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri

325. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay to introduce a Shatabadi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether any initiative has been taken to introduce this train during this year; and

(c) if not, the reasons for neglecting this vital route of Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Introduction of Shatabadi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri has been examined but it was not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Relay Centre in Maharashtra

326. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up T.V. Relay Centre in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location for which representations have been received for setting up the said Relay Centre; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?